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POLISH COAL PRODUCTION, EXPORTS INCREASE

REPORTS EXPANSION OF COAL INDUSTRY -- Berlin, Nachrichten fuer Aussenhandel, 9 Dec 50

A report of the German Institute of Economics in Berlin shows the following development in Polish coal production: in 1938, 69.4 million tons were produced; in 1945, 27.4; in 1946, 47.3 in 1947, 59.1; in 1948, 70.3; and in 1949, 74.1 million tons.

One hundred million tons are to be produced in 1955. Before 1938, Poland's annual per-capita coal consumption amounted to 736 kilograms. This put Poland in 13th place in Europe. By 1946, however, consumption had risen to 1,536 kilograms and by 1947, to 1,700 kilograms. Poland has thereby climbed to fifth place in Europe and surpasses the per-capita consumption in France and the Scandinavian countries. Per-capita coal consumption for 1949 is estimated at 2,000 kilograms. Three times the amount of domestic fuel consumed in 1949 is to be available to the population in 1950.

The goal for 1955, the last year of the Six-Year Plan, represents a 35-percent increase over the planned achievement of the Three-Year Plan (1947 - 1949), and calls for a production of 317,000 tons a day.

In comparison with the 1949 average, the production capacity per man and per shift is to increase 31 percent during the next 6 years.

The Six-Year Plan calls for a capital investment of 565 million dollars (250 billion zlotys), of which 49.2 million dollars had been planned for 1949. Only 510 million prewar zlotys (about 60 million dollars) were invested in Poland's coal-mining industry from 1933 to 1938.

The per-ton investment in coal production was as follows: in 1936, 0.30 prewar zlotys, in 1945, 0.24, in 1946, 0.67, in 1947, 1.14 in 1948, 1.77, and in 1949, 2.50 prewar zlotys.

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Now that the war damage has been repaired, improvements in technical equipment are being made, such as extensive electrification and mechanization, modernizing of parts of the old installations, and construction of new ones. The plan calls for sinking 1,500 meters of mine shafts and extending the galleries by 150,000 meters, installing 26 electric conveyers of over 1,000 kilowatts each, constructing 34 conveyer towers weighing 200 tons each, and installing 41 conveyers. Seven new ore-dressing and coal-washing installations, equipped with flotation plants, are to be provided. The 70 existing ore-dressing and coal-washing installations are undergoing general overhauling and expansion.

Compressed-air equipment is to be expanded by the installation of 45 turbo-compressors with a total suction capacity of 800,000 cubic meters per hour, in addition to the 465 compressors now in operation with a total capacity of 3 million cubic meters per hour. In the boilerhouses of the mines, 44 boilers with a total capacity of 450/560 tons of steam per hour, and in other power stations 19 boilerhouses with a total capacity of 670/800 tons of steam per hour, are to be constructed, as well as turbines with a power capacity of 135,000 kilowatts. Water reservoirs are to be increased from 44,000 to 90,000 cubic meters. In this connection, 155 kilometers of railroad sidings for the hauling of dead heaps, 61 railroad bridges, 38 water tanks, and 45 kilometers of pipeline must be provided by the coal industry.

Heavy drills are to be used in underground mining operations in rock. Soviet-type "Donbass" extracting and loading machines will be used extensively in mining operations. It is planned to have 220 such machines available by 1955.

The entire Polish industry is being mobilized to accomplish this fundamental technical reconstruction of the coal industry. Production of mining machines alone is to be increased  $3\frac{1}{2}$ -4 times. Domestic production of electric mining locomotives was introduced in 1949. Procurement of spare parts, which, like locomotives, had to be imported heretofore, will thus be facilitated.

In developing new methods of mechanization and increased productivity, Poland will be guided increasingly by the successful coal-mining techniques of the USSR. The 1949 coal production per man-shift in the USSR, as compared with other areas, was as follows: USSR, approximately 5 tons; Poland, 3; the Ruhr, 2.8; and France, 1.2 tons.

Coal is now Poland's most important export commodity. Although each year coal constitutes a smaller percentage of total exports, the actual amount of coal exported has risen steadily, as shown in the following table.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coal as Part of Total Exports (%)</u>	<u>Coal Exports (million tons)</u>
1945	75	3.64
1946	63	14.6
1947	50	17.9
1948	48	24.7
1949	--	31.5

For example, Poland delivered 490,000 tons of coal in 1949 to 60 gasworks in Sachsen, or twice the quantity shipped to them in 1948, covering 90 percent of their total requirements.

Of Poland's total 1949 black-coal production,  $42\frac{1}{2}$  percent was exported, exceeding Great Britain's coal exports by 16.3 and West Germany's by 9 million tons. Poland leads all European countries in coal export and could satisfy the black-coal import requirements of every European country.

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At present, there is hardly any coal-importing country in Europe which does not market Polish coal.

Polish brown coal has less significance for the export trade. Deposits are estimated at 35 billion tons. The quantities mined are still very small as compared with black coal. Brown-coal production, which began to decline before the war, increased to 4,766,000 tons in 1947. Approximately two thirds of this amount, the major part of which is yielded by one mine, is shipped to German briquette factories and to the Hirschfelde power station in Sachsen, in exchange for electric power. The Six-Year Plan provides for an annual output of 8.4 million tons.

Seventy-six black coal mines, 8 brown coal mines, 11 coking plants, and 38 electric power plants have been put in operation in Poland since the end of the war. They employ a total of 309,910 workers, 206,000 of whom work in underground mines.

HOUSEHOLD COAL CONSUMPTION RISES -- Berlin, Nachrichten fuer Aussenhandel, 6 Jan 51

At present, Polish coal exports amount to 35.4 percent of all coal mined. The following table shows the breakdown for domestic consumption in 1949, as compared with 1947:

	<u>1949</u>	<u>1947</u>
Industry	43.5	45.7
Domestic fuel	25.6	22.8
Conversion plants (gas, electricity, and other power installations)	17.5	16.0
Transportation	13.4	15.5

The increased consumption of coal for fuel is attributable principally to the steadily rising coal consumption in the rural areas. Total consumption of coal for fuel has already reached a level four times that of the prewar period.

Actually, the use of coal in private households has increased even more than the figures indicate, since the amount of coal used for heating public buildings alone has declined almost 60 percent since 1947.

SURPASS COAL-MINING PLAN -- Trieste, Gospodarstvo, 17 Feb 51

Polish coal mines produced 4 million tons more coal in 1950 than in 1949 and thus surpassed the plan by 1.2 million tons. The new mines in Upper Silesia, which are now being opened, are not yet producing. These mines are not expected to be ready before the end of 1952.

In 1950, the average Polish miner mined an average of 24 kilograms more coal than in 1949. According to the new plan, Polish coal mines are expected to increase production to about 100 million tons by 1955.

Polish factories are now making more use of methane as fuel than before. Soon the 400-kilometer gas line between Krosno and Warsaw will be completed. According to the Six-Year Plan, natural-gas production is scheduled to be increased to 480 cubic meters by the end of 1955.

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